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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... March 25, 1954 ..... SS 136

## Prospective Plantings Larger Than in 1953

As of March 1, farmers intended to plant a total of 282½ million acres of 16 spring-planted crops—over 11 million acres more than were planted in 1953. Intended corn acreage is only 366,000 acres below the 1953 total but the acreage of spring wheat, including durum, would be reduced by 5 1/4 million acres. Reduction of over one-tenth is indicated in potato acreage.

This is a relatively large total spring planted acreage, with major shifts from 1953 acreages of individual crops—if farmers' plans materialize. But plans are more uncertain than usual and fulfillment depends to a large extent upon how farmers react toward their acreage allotments. Farmers did not know their individual farm allotments for corn and in many cases for cotton when they filled out their intentions reports about March 1, although they were generally aware of the over-all reduction allotted to their State. Another major uncertainty lies in the extent of winter wheat acreage to be abandoned.

### Prospective Plantings, 1954

Crop	Planted 1953 1,000 acres	Indicated 1954 1,000 acres	1954 as % of 1953
Corn, all .....	81,403	81,037	99.6
Spring wheat.....	21,903	16,657	76.0
Oats .....	44,015	47,256	107.4
Barley .....	9,597	14,095	146.9
Flaxseed .....	4,560	5,383	118.0
Rice .....	2,181	2,360	108.2
Sorghums .....	14,604	18,664	127.8
Potatoes .....	1,532	1,364	89.0
Sweetpotatoes ....	356	357	100.4
Tobacco 1/.....	1,638	1,630	99.5
Beans, dry edible	1,437	1,640	114.1
Peas, dry field....	280	321	114.6
Soybeans 2/.....	16,085	18,075	112.4
Peanuts 2/.....	1,884	1,942	103.1
Hay 1/.....	73,918	75,793	102.5
Sugar beets .....	792	944	119.1

1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.

## Feed Grain Acreage May be Larger Than in 1953

Feed grains may be grown on 161 million acres in 1954 according to March 1 plans. This would be 11.4 million acres or nearly 8 percent more than in 1953. No forecasts of production are made now, but if prospective acreages are realized and if yields should equal the 1948-52 average, by States, an aggregate of 123 million tons of feed grains would result. The 1953 total was 117 million tons; the record high was 135 million tons in 1948.

## Food Grain Acreage Smaller

Food grains will be grown on a much smaller acreage than in 1953, as growers are holding close to wheat acreage allotments.

## Oilseed Acreage Increased

Of the oilseeds, acreages of flax and soybeans are both up sharply from 1953. Peanut acreage grown alone will also be increased.

## Smaller Potato Acreage

A decrease of 11 percent in the acreage of potatoes is now planned. The decline is general, with only Idaho, Wyoming, and Arizona showing small increases, but sharpest declines were in the early potato States.

## Total 1954 Acreage May be Less Than 1953

Principal crops planted or grown in 1954 may total about 356½ million acres (59 crops) allowing for cotton at the allotment acreage and for numerous other crops not yet surveyed. This would be 2.7 million acres less than in 1953, but about 2.6 million more than in 1950—the latest previous year in which allotments were in effect on corn, wheat, and cotton.

## Spring Activities Normal

Spring activities were mostly normal to advanced in early March. Soils were largely unfrozen and fields mostly accessible for working, but cold weather the first half of March delayed operations some.

## Moisture Supplies

Surface moisture ranges mostly from adequate to satisfactory, but there is concern about short subsoil moisture reserves in important areas, and the western and southern Great Plains have a definite shortage of soil moisture. Irrigation water supplies in Rocky Mountain snowpacks range from ample in northern portions to short

## Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Feb. 1954
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	258
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates .....	1910-14=100	282
Parity ratio .....	1910-14=100	91
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14=100	1/ 525
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	103
Retail prices of food .....	1947-49=100	1/ 113
Weekly factory earnings .....	1947-49=100	137
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Feb. 1953	Jan.-Feb. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	17.4	18.2
Eggs, (bil.) .....	10.7	10.9
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	2/ 721	2/ 830
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	2/ 61	2/ 60
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.) .....	2/ 1,163	2/ 881
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	2/ 1,999	2/ 1,836

1/ January 1954 figure.

2/ January under Federal inspection.

in central parts and extremely short in New Mexico and Arizona.

### Prospective Acreage Compared With Allotments

Comparisons between prospective plantings and allotted acreages under Government programs are possible in only a few instances. The prospective total wheat acreage is 63,232,000—only 2 percent above the national allotment. Corn acreage allotments were proclaimed for only a designated commercial area. The allotment was 17.6 percent less than the 1953 planted acreage in that area and equal to about 12 percent of the national total. Prospective corn plantings are only 0.4 percent less than the 1953 planted acreage. Tobacco allotments do not cover all types—the 1954 prospective acreage is nearly up to that for 1953. The prospective acreage of peanuts grown alone is 58,000 acres larger than in 1953; however, the acreage to be picked and threshed is not likely to exceed allotments.

### Record Large Orange Crop in Prospect

A record outturn of nearly 125 million boxes of oranges in the 1953-54 season continues in prospect—4 percent more than in the 1952-53 season and 18 percent above average. The 62 million boxes still available is less than the 68 million boxes of 1952-53 crop oranges left on March 1, 1953.

### Grapefruit Crop 16% Larger Than Last Season's

The grapefruit crop, estimated at over 44 million boxes, is 16 percent larger than last season, but 14 percent below average. About 19 million boxes remain, compared with 16 million of the 1952-53 crop available after March 1, 1953.

### Truck Crops for Fresh Market

The supply of commercial vegetables for fresh market in the winter season now nearing its close was 4 percent less than last winter, but above average. Reductions in outturns of cabbage, carrots, and celery more than offset larger crops of sweet corn, lettuce, and tomatoes.

The acreage of spring vegetables reported to date—covering about two-thirds of the total—is slightly larger than last spring and a seventh above average. More asparagus and tomatoes, but less lettuce and onions than last spring are in prospect.

### Fewer Potatoes

The winter crop of about 3 million bushels of potatoes is a fourth smaller than last winter, with harvest completed in Texas, but continuing through March in Florida. The acreage of early spring potatoes is sharply less than last spring and average. Including late spring and summer crops, the acreage of early commercial potatoes is likely to be a fifth smaller than the 277,000 acres in 1953.

### February Milk Production at Record High

The high rate of milk production continued during February. Output totaled 8,980 million pounds—5 percent more than in February 1953, and a new high record for

the month. Remarkably mild and comparatively dry weather over practically the entire country during February favored heavy milk flow.

### Jan.-Feb. Egg Production Larger Than Year Ago

Farm flocks laid 5,476 million eggs in February—3 percent more than in February 1953 and 8 percent above the 1943-52 average. Egg production was above that of last year in all parts of the country. January-February egg production was 2 percent larger than in 1953 and 13 percent above average.

### More Layers Than A Year Ago

The Nation's laying flock averaged 371,840,000 layers in February—2 percent more than in February 1953, but 5 percent below average. Numbers of Layers on March 1 were 10.5 million less than on February 1, compared with a disappearance of 12 million last year and the average disappearance of 8.1 million layers.

### Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Feb. 1953	Jan. 1954	Feb. 1954
Prices received by farmers....	264	259	258
Crops .....	249	240	237
Food grains .....	241	233	236
Feed grains and hay.....	214	207	208
Tobacco .....	424	420	443
Cotton.....	256	254	258
Fruit.....	203	222	210
Com. veg. for fresh mkt....	275	271	233
Oil-bearing crops .....	287	268	269
Livestock and products .....	277	277	277
Meat animals .....	305	309	315
Dairy products.....	284	274	267
Poultry and eggs.....	206	213	208
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	264	263	264
Commodities used in living	266	271	271
Commodities used in			
production .....	261	254	255
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates .....	281	282	282
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers).....	94	92	91

### Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and Unit	Average Price		Parity Price
	Jan. 15 1954	Feb. 15 1954	Feb. 15 1954
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.03	2.06	2.48
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.42	1.43	1.80
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	11.1	11.2	13.4
Cotton, lb. 1/..... ct.	30.05	30.42	34.72
Potatoes, bu. .... dol.	.691	.653	1.52
Hogs, 100 lb. .... dol.	24.60	25.30	20.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	16.00	16.20	21.20
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	17.80	18.10	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	18.60	19.10	23.00
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	65.9	65.1	74.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb... dol.	4.40	2/ 4.21	4.74
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	23.8	22.4	29.9
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	46.3	45.7	46.8

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.



### Early Spring Lamb Crop Larger Than Year Ago

The 1954 early lamb crop in the principal early lamb producing States is estimated to be about 3 percent larger than last year. The larger early lamb crop is mainly due to a higher percentage of the ewes lambing earlier than a year ago. Mild, open winter weather has been very favorable for early lambing and holding down losses. However, the feed situation has not been favorable in some sections that suffered from dry weather in 1953.

### 1953 Mohair Production Larger Than 1952 Total

Mohair production in the 7 principal producing States in 1953 is estimated at 12,572,000 pounds. The 1953 clip is 4 percent larger than the 1952 production but 29 percent smaller than the 10 year average.

### Total Wool Production in 1953 is 2% Above 1952

Wool production, shorn and pulled, in 1953 totaled 271 million pounds—2 percent above the 1952 production and the largest total wool production since 1948. Growers received an annual average price per pound of 54.7 cents for shorn wool compared with 54.2 cents in 1952 and the 10-year average of 50.8 cents.

### Farm Employment Up

A total of 6,438,000 persons were working on farms in late February. There were about 20,000 more family workers and 40,000 more hired workers than for the comparable period a year ago. The seasonal upturn from a month earlier was greater than usual for both groups. Mild, open weather and some easing of the labor supply situation were undoubtedly contributing factors.

### Cold Storage Holdings

Commodity	Unit	End of month stocks		
		Feb. 1953	Jan. 1954	Feb. 1954 (Prelim.)
		Millions	Millions	Millions
<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b>				
Apples .....	Bu.	10.8	14.9	10.6
Frozen fruits, total .....	Lb.	232.1	328.0	290.7
Frozen orange juice 1/ .....	Gal.	19.4	17.8	23.5
Frozen veg., total .....	Lb.	450.3	630.2	561.5
<b>Meats</b>				
Beef .....	Lb.	254.0	229.9	210.1
Pork .....	Lb.	606.3	393.3	406.2
Total all meats .....	Lb.	1,043.5	761.7	749.8
Fish & Shellfish .....	Lb.	158.7	172.1	154.6
<b>Dairy &amp; Poultry</b>				
Butter, creamery .....	Lb.	99.6	294.0	309.0
Cheese, total .....	Lb.	218.4	427.5	427.1
Eggs 2/ .....	Case	1.7	1.2	1.3
Frozen poultry .....	Lb.	220.6	266.6	240.6

### Selected Items Held by Government 3/

Butter, creamery .....	Lb.	68.0	267.2	273.3
American cheese .....	Lb.	15.7	250.5	260.4
Poultry .....	Lb.	13.0	6.1	5.8
Pork .....	Lb.	37.3	16.9	14.3
Beef .....	Lb.	16.9	23.1	28.3

1/ Single strength and concentrated.

2/ Case equivalents of shell, frozen, dried.

3/ Included in above stocks.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

### Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, Jan. 1954 1/2/

State and Region	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine .....	7,416	4,237	11,653
New Hampshire .....	4,320	800	5,120
Vermont .....	7,860	700	8,560
Massachusetts .....	10,437	3,631	14,068
Rhode Island .....	1,541	363	1,904
Connecticut .....	9,108	5,527	14,635
New York .....	46,670	17,009	63,679
New Jersey .....	19,370	3,932	23,302
Pennsylvania .....	48,679	10,919	59,598
<i>North Atlantic</i> .....	<i>155,401</i>	<i>47,118</i>	<i>202,519</i>
Ohio .....	55,497	25,200	80,697
Indiana .....	61,547	25,854	87,401
Illinois .....	108,207	55,773	163,980
Michigan .....	34,159	18,156	52,315
Wisconsin .....	80,019	11,161	91,180
<i>East North Central</i> .....	<i>339,429</i>	<i>136,144</i>	<i>475,573</i>
Minnesota .....	81,722	54,825	136,547
Iowa .....	173,042	71,656	244,698
Missouri .....	59,852	21,705	81,557
North Dakota .....	11,224	34,255	45,479
South Dakota .....	36,373	25,661	62,034
Nebraska .....	66,230	40,359	106,589
Kansas .....	48,115	38,406	86,521
<i>West North Central</i> .....	<i>476,558</i>	<i>286,867</i>	<i>763,425</i>
Delaware .....	6,674	792	7,466
Maryland .....	13,301	2,328	15,629
Virginia .....	17,670	15,214	32,884
West Virginia .....	5,752	3,103	8,855
North Carolina .....	15,979	15,521	31,500
South Carolina .....	6,537	6,248	12,785
Georgia .....	19,910	12,227	32,137
Florida .....	10,027	40,737	50,764
<i>South Atlantic</i> .....	<i>95,850</i>	<i>96,170</i>	<i>192,020</i>
Kentucky .....	18,718	93,205	111,923
Tennessee .....	16,715	32,824	49,539
Alabama .....	12,633	10,803	23,436
Mississippi .....	11,843	26,067	37,910
Arkansas .....	13,145	37,978	51,123
Louisiana .....	8,290	25,268	33,558
Oklahoma .....	20,039	14,582	34,621
Texas .....	61,748	127,330	189,078
<i>South Central</i> .....	<i>163,131</i>	<i>368,057</i>	<i>531,188</i>
Montana .....	11,216	24,711	35,927
Idaho .....	11,892	15,568	27,460
Wyoming .....	5,209	1,952	7,161
Colorado .....	26,212	18,418	44,630
New Mexico .....	4,324	12,146	16,470
Arizona .....	5,748	43,904	49,652
Utah .....	8,642	2,949	11,591
Nevada .....	2,221	498	2,719
Washington .....	14,726	40,307	55,033
Oregon .....	12,548	15,412	27,960
California .....	80,012	108,151	188,163
<i>Western Region</i> .....	<i>182,750</i>	<i>284,016</i>	<i>466,766</i>
<i>United States</i> .....	<i>1,413,119</i>	<i>1,218,372</i>	<i>2,631,491</i>

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/

Source	Jan. 1954	Feb. 1954 <u>2/</u>
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans <u>3/</u> ....	2,631	1,900
Livestock and products .....	1,413	1,200
Meat animals.....	790	
Dairy products .....	330	
Poultry and eggs .....	272	
Other .....	21	
Crops.....	1,218	700
Food grains .....	167	
Feed crops .....	315	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	305	
Oil-bearing crops.....	34	
Tobacco .....	144	
Vegetables .....	91	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	68	
Other .....	94	
Government payments .....	18	
Total cash receipts .....	2,649	

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <u>1/</u>	Farm value <u>2/</u>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average.....	\$1,002	\$452	\$550	45%
1953 - Jan. ....	1,014	459	555	45
Dec. <u>3/</u> .....	995	445	550	45
1954 - Jan. <u>4/</u> .....	1,006	452	554	45

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.



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